

Department of Correction Celebrates Black History Month

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Commissioner J. David Donahue



Artwork by Female Juvenile Offenders at Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility.

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Indianapolis, Indiana - (March 1, 2007) - Commissioner J. David Donahue kicked off Black History month in February. The Indiana Department of Correction facilities concluded their month-long events by honoring Black History Month this week.

"The Department of Correction participated in a number of activities throughout the month of February.

We are very proud of our staff and offenders for taking the initiative to plan and educate each other through these types of events," said Commissioner Donahue.

The Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility held several events and concluded with speeches by Dr. Eugene White, the Superintendent of Indianapolis Public Schools and Mrs. Laura Hubbard, a nationwide public speaker. Dr. White was the first African American Superintendent and Mrs. Hubbard speaks publicly in family and ladies workshops around the world. These speakers were selected from a number of candidates based upon their achievements and accomplishments which they both reflected on when giving their speeches to the juvenile offenders.

Dr. White's speech focused on education and the importance of earning one's education to move up in life. "It is important that you know that freedom isn't free. The cost of freedom is education. Education will set you free," said Dr. White at the conclusion of his speech.

The facility also hosted a range of activities including an essay contest, an acronym contest (PERSEVERANCE was the word chosen), a knowledge bowl for selected students to study and participate in, and a Unit Decoration Contest.

"We are extremely proud of our offenders and staff for organizing and participating in these events throughout the month. It was a huge success and we look forward to doing this every year," said Steve McCauley, Facility Superintendent.

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About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.